

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Preliminary Notice of some Extinct Tortoises from the Islands of Rodriguez and Mauritius.* By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

SOME time ago M. L. Bouton, of Port Louis, sent me for examination some Chelonian remains from Rodriguez and the Mauritius, and more especially, among those from the latter island, a nearly complete carapace. This collection has been supplemented by a series of bones in the Geological Department of the British Museum, which were discovered at the same time and at the same place with the skeleton of *Didus ineptus*.

As some time must elapse before the plates illustrating my description can be finished, I think it advisable to indicate the main results of my examination.

All these tortoises belong to a group of gigantic land-tortoises, characterized by a flat skull (type *Testudo platyceps* of Gray), and by a dilated (not vertically compressed) symphysial bridge between the foramina obturatoria.

The Rodriguez species is distinguished by very slender vertebræ and leg-bones, and by having the neural arch of the sixth cervical vertebra perforated by a pair of large foramina. This species I have named *T. rodericensis*.

Among the remains from the Mauritius two species can be readily distinguished:—

One appears to have been the more common; it has three serrated dental ridges along the lower jaw, a peculiarity hitherto unknown among recent land-tortoises: for this species I propose the name *Testudo triserrata*.

The other is more sparingly represented, and distinguished by various modifications in the form of the bones of all the limbs. I distinguish it by the name *Testudo inepta*.

*On the Dorsal Shield of Tolypeutes.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

In the 'Catalogue of Carnivorous and Edentate Mammalia (*Bruta*, Linnæus) in the British Museum,' p. 385, I formed these animals into a family (*Tolypeutidæ*), from the manner in which they walk, and on account of the dorsal disk being partially free from the back of the body; but only being able to examine a living specimen, which I was afraid of injuring, I believed that the disk was attached to the middle of the back, which is found not to be the case when one can examine more carefully a specimen preserved in spirits.

Mr. Edward Gerrard, Jun., has sold two specimens of the Mataco (*Tolypeutes conurus*) to the British Museum, which had been preserved in spirits; and he has pointed out to me that these specimens show that the dorsal disk of these animals is quite free from the body of the animal, except in three places—(1st) at the front end round the neck, (2nd) on the sides at the margin inside the three median dorsal rings, and (3rd) over the pelvis and round the caudal

end of the shield ; so that, in fact, it is even more free than in *Chlamydophorus*.

In these places it is united by an extension of the skin of the body, which from these parts extends over the whole internal surface of the disk. The whole outer surface of the bony disk is also covered by a very thin skin, which is visible and easily rubs off the animal that has been preserved in spirit.

The male and female are very like one another in external appearance ; but the penis of the male is very large, and fusiform.

*Observations on the Structure of the Proboscis of an Hermaphrodite Nemertian from the Marseilles Coast.* By M. E. ZELLER.

M. Marion has described, under the name of *Borlasia Kefersteinii*, a curious Nemertian, the examination of which proves with certainty the occasional hermaphroditism of the Turbellaria of this group. The importance of this anatomical fact leads me to present to the Academy the results of some investigations made in the laboratory of the "École pratique des Hautes Études" of Marseilles, under the direction of M. Marion, in consequence of which it has been ascertained that the *Borlasia* parasitic upon *Phallusia mamillata*, so frequent in the gulf, must be united with *B. Kefersteinii*, with which it presents the same sexual organization. It will therefore in future be easy to meet with this species, which always exists in great abundance on the branchial tissue of the Ascidia. The anatomical examination of more than sixty individuals has revealed to me some peculiarities, often not very observable, in the structure and functions of the proboscis.

The greatly developed proboscis extends in the dorsal region of the animal from the ganglia to the anus, where it is recurved so as to attach itself to the walls of the general cavity. I have distinguished five parts, namely :—1, a protractile region ; 2, a bulb of the style ; 3, a poison-sac ; 4, a glandular region ; and 5, a muscular region.

The walls of the first four parts of this organ are formed by longitudinal and transverse muscles ; the muscular region seems to be formed entirely by longitudinal muscles.

The protractile region is equal to about one third of the total length of the proboscis ; it passes between the commissures of the cerebral ganglia, is reflexed, and fixed by its terminal portion to the membrane which covers these ganglia. On its muscular envelope we may distinguish a transparent homogeneous layer, roughened with pretty thick papillæ, resembling more or less elongated mamillæ, upon which I have not observed any vibratile cilia.

Behind this region is placed the bulb of the style, of a more or less rounded form, in the centre of which is arranged the apparatus of attack. The point, which is much drawn out, penetrates by a small aperture into the inferior portion of the protractile part. It is fixed at its base in a sort of ring or ridge which surmounts the haft. The mass of the haft appears to be granular and brownish.

The style does not float freely in the centre of the bulb. It is